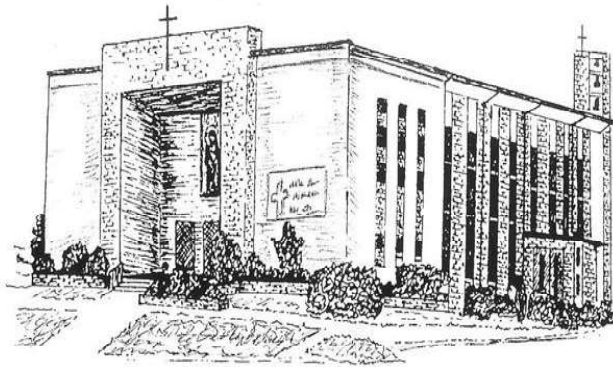


THE TAPROOT

Volume 60 Number 1

January 2024



LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
"THE LIGHT OF THE LOOP"

2053 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36606
www.littleflowermobile.com

Rectory: 473-3340
School: 479-7881/5761

Parish: 478-3381
Fax: 476-4064

Taste of Little Flower

Calling all cooks to be part of the "Taste of Little Flower" to be held on January 20, 2024 at 5:30. We are showcasing the diversity of our parish. It is so easy to be a part of our culinary trip:

1) Let us know what you will prepare before January 19th by calling the Parish Office.

2) Prepare enough for at least 50 small servings (3 oz. cup or 6" plate).

The parish will provide the cups, plates, napkins and beverage for the evening.

Sample the myriad of ethnic cuisines that are part of the Little Flower family. In previous years we had food from:

Ireland,

Germany,

France,

Vietnam,

China,

Peru,

Lebanon,

Poland,

Mexico,

and the good old
Southern USA

Come and enjoy an evening of FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP while sampling a gourmet meal!! Tickets: \$10 per Family or \$5 per person. To buy a ticket, prepare a dish, or for more information please call Kay Case at 251.610.2913, or the the Parish Office at 251.478.3381.

FROM THE DESK OF FR. JOHN:

What a wonderful Christmas! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and diligently to make the liturgies and the church so beautiful. I am forever grateful.

I know that it seems that there is always some fundraiser, but they are necessary. Just as your home need constant care and upkeep, so does the church (which is also your home). Thank you for supporting our fundraisers. We now have "The Little Way Calendar" Fundraiser. I am excited about it and hope that you will look at the specifics of it on page six of this TapRoot. Please call the office if you need any clarifications.

Have you noticed the new digital sign on the gym wall. It will be used as another means of communication of all interparish news. The air conditioner needed in the school is being installed during the Christmas break. Thank you all for your support.

It is Catholic Charities Appeal time again. Thank you, David LeNoir and Larry Hyland, for co-chairing the appeal in our parish. It takes lots of work and organization to get it successfully done. We will have an archdiocesan speaker at all Masses on January 20-21. Mrs. Shearie Archer will be our speaker. Appeal Sunday is January 28th. Please fill out your pledge card even if you cannot give. It will relieve Daid or Larry the task of calling you and put us on the 100% response list. The basic pledge is \$53 a month or \$636 for the year. Please prayerfully consider it.

Couples married during the month of January, February or March are invited to have their marriage blessed at all Masses the weekend of January 6th and 7th.

Remember that we will have First Friday Adoration on January 5, 2024 from 9:15am to 5:15pm. The Legion of Mary will have Adoration on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 9:30am to 10:30am. All are invited to spend some time with Our Lord.

We will once again have our "Taste of Little Flower" on Saturday, January 20, 2024, right after the 4:30 Mass. This event always showcases the cultural diversity in our parish. In the past the food has always been great. Specifics of the event are on page sixteen of this TapRoot. Please consider making a dish to

share. Remember the Pet Vaccine Clinic here on January 6th from 10:00am until Noon in the school parking lot. Rabies shots are \$10; nail trims are \$15. Cats must be crated and dogs must be on a leash. This is sponsored by Petco and Fomas.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! Thank you for being the face of Christ and sharing your love of our Lord to all who enter our home. There is no other parish like Little Flower!

Thank you for the gifts, the cards and goodies left at or sent to the rectory. Fr. Conry and I really appreciate each one of them. I pray that the New Year bring you peace and much happiness.

May you all have a Happy and Blessed New Year from the Office Staff and myself!!

Fr John

In
the
Spot
Light



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Little Flower Parishioner and Professional Golfer, Michael Brisbane, has given lessons to Little Flower students for several years. Some of our students may never get the opportunity to swing a club again. Thank you Michael for giving them that experience!!

LITTLE FLOWER MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy New Year to all! I hope that everyone had a wonderful and blessed Christmas. Was Santa good to you this year? I hope so. The Christmas season is not quite over yet, liturgically speaking. So, we will be singing more of our favorite Christmas songs for just a little while longer. It seems a shame that the Christmas season isn't longer though.

I would like to thank both Promise and the St. Therese Choir for singing at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

As we are winding down from Advent and Christmas it is time for our music ministry to relax take a deep breath. We all have been working hard the last several months preparing for Christmas Masses. All of the choirs have put in a lot of hard work learning new songs and polishing up old ones. I want to thank all of my choir members for attending the rehearsals and for all the hard work they have done. In the end I hope that all of the hard work paid off. If you enjoyed the music that the choirs sang during Advent and Christmas don't be afraid to let the choir members know. You would be surprised how far a simple "thank you" will go.

I pray that everyone has a wonderful and blessed new year!

Dave Masline

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, The Legion Of Mary

January 1, 2024? Yes, but hang onto that stable and don't let the camel get away! It's still Christmas in the Church, in spite of insistent January dates! For us blessed believers, Jesus, born in Bethlehem, greeted by angels and shepherds at His birth, is this day the 8-day-old Infant who sheds his first blood for us by Circumcision, receives the Name Jesus from His Father through Joseph, and formally becomes Abraham's son.

Further, on this New Year's Day, the Octave Day of the Nativity, the Holy Spirit, through the Church's Solemnity, honors Jesus' Mother and ours, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the Theotokos, the Mother of God. We rejoice in Mary's willingness to conceive, bear, and raise the Son of God as her own her own Child, and we cling to her as our Mother, who unfailingly brings us to Jesus, if we permit. Today's mid-Christmas-season Feast carries us to the final Day of Christmas, the Epiphany, (the Sunday between January 2 and 8), when we welcome the Three Magi who honor Jesus as King (gold), God (frankincense) and mortal man (Myrrh, an embalming oil) Who will die for us. This Glory ends here with the fear-filled flight of the magi to their Eastern home and the Holy Family to Egypt to escape the murderous wrath of Herod. Nevertheless, the Season itself ends with a shining light of hope, for the Holy Spirit shows us the arrival of John the Baptist calling all of us to repentance so we can receive the coming Messiah and our eternal salvation.

As for Christmas presents, Mary and Jesus offer TWO periods of Adoration for us –First Friday (1/5) 9:15AM to 5:15PM; Mass following at 5:30 PM, and Second Saturday (!/13) Holy Hour 9:30-10:30AM). They thank us warmly for joining them First Friday (12/1) to keep them company in spite of the world's competition.

How about you? Over-loaded? Frazzled? Worn out? Come Home for a break – any Monday night God sends, 6:15 PM Bringer Center – and get to know your Mother, your Brother and us! You'll never be the same again!

Lucy Park



Eucharistic
Adoration

THE LEGION OF MARY
INVITE ALL TO
ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST
SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH
9:30AM TO 10:30AM
ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US

THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH



During Advent, a number of the Gospels that we discussed, were about John the Baptist. As we know, he was the warm up act for Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Though many thought he was the Messiah, John made it quite clear that he was unworthy to even untie the sandals of the true Messiah, that was yet to be revealed. John's focus was on baptizing for repentance. When Jesus was baptized by John, it became clear to all his follow-

ers that Jesus was the true Messiah, who could forgive sin. As Catholics, we have been given the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where our sins are forgiven. As the faith leaders of our family, this is a wonderful time of year to remind our family and friends of this most wonderful gift. It costs nothing to receive other than some time to contemplate and truly repent for our sins, as John the Baptist encouraged us to do. It's a gift we can receive all year long, not just during the Christmas season.

Tom Ebel

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

"St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, Terror of demons, pray for us."

WEEKLY MEETINGS

TUESDAY

6:00PM

ST. JOSEPH ROOM (NEXT TO RECTORY)

The "Little Way" Calendar Little Flower 2024 Donation Calendar

We are excited to announce a new fundraiser for our Parish, the "Little Way" calendar. It is an opportunity for you to dedicate a specific day, such as a birthday, anniversary, or memorial for a loved one.

Funds will be divided equally to support Little Flower Church and School.

Here's how it works: each day of the year is assigned to a specific dollar amount based solely on where it falls in the calendar.

For example,

*January 1st is valued at \$1

*January 2nd is valued at \$2

*January 3rd is valued at \$3

*And so on, all the way up to December 31st, value \$365.

You can find the calendar and the corresponding dollar values on our website www.littleflowermobile.com by following the link the "Little Way" calendar.

We ask that you pick a date and donate the amount associated with that day. This can be done in honor or memory of someone and their name will appear as follows:

*On the new digital billboard located on the exterior of the school gym

*A post on the Little Flower Catholic Church Facebook page (names published once, weekly)

*A reference in the Sunday Bulletin (names published once, weekly)

*A morning announcement and prayer at Little Flower School

As an enticement, each donor will be entered in a drawing to win a minimum of \$1,000. If the entire calendar is full, we will draw for \$5,000. For example, January 1 = 1 chance, while December 31 = 365 chances.

Payment can be made by credit card through PayPal, through Venmo, or by mailing a check directly to the office. If you prefer to come to the office, we are happy to assist you in choosing your date! If you have any questions, please call the office at 478-3381.



LITTLE FLOWER KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COUNCIL #13367

Fellow parishioners,

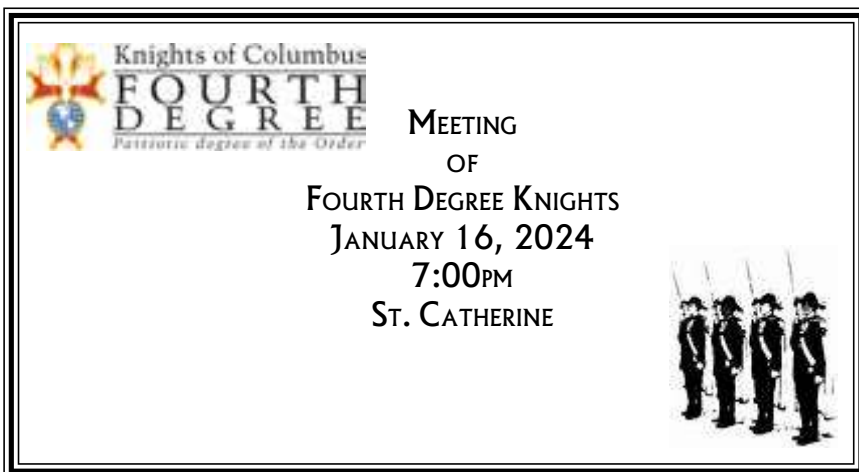
Happy new year everyone. I hope you and yours had a blessed Christmas. Once again, the Knights have been quite busy. Here are a few activities we have done since the last update. We assisted in decorating the habitat yard for Christmas, provided food for the diocese youth group, and helped with pictures with Santa. The Knights will not be slowing down. Right around the corner is our annual Super Bowl party. Lent is earlier this year. The first fish fry will be February 16th, 2024, and we are also planning a BBQ meat sale once Lent is over. Stay tuned for further details.

As always, it is a privilege supporting Father John and the parish. If you looking for a way to support the parish, the Knights of Columbus or Lady's Auxiliary is a great way to do so. We would love to have you.

Thank you,

John L Hyland

Grand Knight Little Flower K of C
Council 13367 (Vivat Jesus)



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

LADIES AUXILIARY

Happy New Year!

The KOC Ladies Auxiliary joined with the Knights for our annual Christmas Party on December 2nd in lieu of our monthly meeting. A good time was had by all. Everyone enjoyed a video presentation of our year's activities—reminiscing about the good times we all had in service to our parish.

Our next auxiliary meeting will be January 9th at 7:00 pm. Our next ladies night out will be January 16th at 6:30 pm at Grace Restaurant, 555 Dauphin Street in downtown Mobile.

We look forward to the new year of service to the Knights of Columbus and Little Flower.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Finan, President

LF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Can you believe another year is almost over and our committee is presently wrapping up our angel tree project. This year, our parishioners have generously provided almost 250 gifts for the children in our parish and around 20 goody bags for our homebound seniors – a big thank you to all and may God Bless your generosity. I also want to thank our great committee members who have worked the past couple weeks, manning the angel tree at church and sorting the hundreds of gifts. These members volunteer their time to make this as well as other projects so successful. I know all the office staff is always so relieved when this project is completed as every spare foot in the parish office is filled with gifts!! We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our next project will start in Lent with a giving tree for items for the 2B Pregnancy Center.

Terry McKinney

LITTLE FLOWER ALTAR SOCIETY



Happy New Year to all from our members. The New Year is an opportunity for people to reflect on the good and bad in the year that is ending, and to resolve to do better in the coming year. What resolutions did you make? But biggest

question - will you keep them??

Our thanks to the crew who assembled the Nativity Scene. That is so much work! Those who labored for us were: Rudy Baugh, Richard Kimbrell, Bill Miller and Tom Ebel. Ladies from the Society added the finishing touches.


Then the following week, we were busy again decorating for Christmas. The volunteers there were too numerous to name all of them, St. Therese is saying special intercessions for each of you.

We hope our efforts added to the meaning of your Season and reminded you of why we were celebrating.

Betty Ebel

*Altar Service for January: Kay Dees/Shannon Thomson
Start Date/December 29*

EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION



FIRST FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH
9:30AM TO 5:15PM

ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US



We just presented our first Source and Summit Night for the parish on December 14th with Fr. John as our first speaker for this leg of the initiative. If you have never heard Fr. John speak or present on the

“Eucharist-And So It Begins” it is truly your loss. Fr. John has an incredibly unique way of highlighting the importance of the Eucharist in the Christian faith through history. He creates a kind of timeline that highlights some of the key moments that prepared the way for the Eucharist in the Old Testament, as well as its institution in the New Testament. Fr. John, like Jesus leaves us with no doubt that who we receive in Holy Communion is without question the true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. And, so, why is this so important to us? Well, because the celebration of the Eucharist is more than just a memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus. And, more than just His command to “do this in remembrance of Me.” By His real Presence in the Eucharist Christ fulfills His promise to be with us always until the end of the age. (Matt 28:20). He has not left us alone on earth. He walks with us side-by-side forever. It is up to us to spend enough time with Him to recognize Him and to return His love. In an age of division and doubt, the Holy Spirit is inviting us to come, come away and spend time with Him. Will we respond? Will we do it? Will we take His hand and let Him lead us to His place of love? One exceedingly small way is by joining us for the next three Source and Summit nights. The next one will be held January 11, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Cafeteria. Lauren Ally will be the guest speaker. Topic: Eucharist, A Love That Transforms. Watch the parish Facebook and Website for more information. If you have not signed up for Flock Notes to receive this and other parish notices, now is a suitable time to do that. “Whenever God moves in power, He always begins in the human heart.”

LITTLE FLOWER BIG FLOWER GARDEN CLUB



If you enjoy playing in the dirt and growing things, this is the club for you! Our next gathering is January 6, 2024 at 8:00am under the pavilion in the habitat yard. Bring your gloves, small hand tools and good cheer. Need info. contact Alex Smith (251-209-3200) or Steve VanArsdale (251-404-8724).

Have a Great New Year!!

"SOUL FOOD" CAFÉ



January 7, 2024

1PM in the Bringer Center

Consuming the Word:

The New Testament and the Eucharist in

the Early Church! By Scott Hahn

Chapter 7 - The Old Testament in the New Testament

Bring a dish to share!!
Food for the Body and Food for the Soul!!

If you need more information please contact:

Mary Jo Wilder
251-422-1493
mamajo54@comcast.net



The class is on the final leg of their journey to becoming a member of the Body of Christ - The Catholic Church.

Getting down to the pillars of our faith, we will begin study of the Seven Sacraments.

Fr. Wade Menezes, of the Fathers of Mercy, writes, "Recorded deeply in Sacred Scripture, let us remember that each sacrament is "an efficacious sign of grace instituted by Christ and entrusted to the church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit." ¹That each sacrament. When worthily received, is "a literal meeting with Lord Jesus". In other words, it is the mystery of Christ made present - and with the Eucharist, it is a literal meeting par excellence precisely because of Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. ²

We look forward to sharing this Good News with our RCIA Class and any other interested persons.

During Lent, we will introduce our future Catholic brothers and sisters to the parish. Meanwhile, please pray for them in their discernment and journey forward.

The RCIA team wishes all a very happy and prosperous 2024.



Betty Ebel
OCIA Coordinator

1. CCC, 774, 1131, 1210
2. "Catholic Essentials - A Guide to Understanding Key Church Teachings, Father Wade Menezes

VIKING NEWS

*The mission of Little Flower Catholic School
is to teach, learn and grow through the tradition of faith.*

The New Year is here and time to begin the second semester of school. When I was a child we never returned to school until after the Feast of the Epiphany on January the 6th. Certainly a lot has changed over the years where Catholic schools are concerned. The calendar year is longer and the school staff looks nothing like it did decades ago. Even with changes, the foundation of Catholic schools has remained the same. Catholic schools educate the whole child; mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. This is certainly true at Little Flower Catholic School. Our school is staffed by qualified teachers who are passionate about their students and the curriculum. Little Flower Catholic School is a happy place where the gifts and talents of every student are highly valued on a daily basis.

Because Little Flower Catholic School is the largest ministry of Little Flower Parish we would like for all of you to come and see us. I would like to invite you over on Sunday, January 28, 2024, for refreshments and tours after the 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M. and noon Masses. There will even be a special dedication of the 'The Little Way' prayer room following the 9:30 A.M. This wonderful space was created by a group of dedicated ladies in the parish and community at large. Please come and visit YOUR school. I feel certain you will want to spread the good news after your visit.

Regardless of whether our staff and students are returning early or late from Christmas break, the biggest gift of the season is that they are returning to Catholic school. What a treasure Little Flower Catholic School has been to this community for almost 90 years. What a treasure Little Flower Catholic School continues to be and we thank you for that.

Happy New Year!

Debbie Ellis,
Principal



LITTLE FLOWER PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Welcome back and Happy 2024!

CCD classes will resume January 7th.

Our first parent meeting for First Communion will be January 21st in the second grade classroom.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5: 17)

Tommie Angel

Director of Religious Education



Little Flower Youth Group

Little Flower Youth Group (grades 6-12th)

Sunday, January 14th

12:00 pm Youth Mass

Pizza and Top Golf

Volunteers are needed to help with the Mass. Contact
Carole Grant at rathlegrant@bellsouth.net to sign-up
and for more information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parish Council

Our next meeting is March 6, 2024 at 6:00 in Parish Office.

Liturgy Committee

Many of the topics that we discussed have already taken place or are in process. We look forward to our Lenten Mission which will be on the topic of the Eucharist. Our Parish has been studying the Eucharist during 2023 and will continue in 2024. At Christmas the parish distributed a booklet in church, Beautiful Eucharist. We have speakers on January 11th and February 15th. Father John was our speaker on December 14th and was excellent.

We were made aware that we will have a new electronic reader board on the wall of the gym hopefully by the time you receive this Taproot. This will serve both parish and school announcements.

We know you are enjoying the pre-Mass song from our choirs. This was begun in late November.

We hope that 2024 will bring people back to church with a new realization of how important the Eucharist is in their life. It is the greatest prayer we have. Happy New Year. Our next meeting is January 17th at 3:30 PM in the Parish Office.

Sr. Mary Joyce Bringer, CSJ



The Round Table

As we enter the year 2024 I think it is safe to say all of us pretty much experience great stress, are overwhelmed by the influence of mass media, the division in society, and the economic pressures put on us. We all look to the Church for guidance and help to grow closer to God and each other, stronger as families, and parents are seeking ways to prepare their children morally and spiritually for life in this complex and challenging world. "Those who are already disciples of Jesus Christ need to be constantly nourished by the Word of God so that we may grow in our Christian life."

"The maturation of the Christian life requires that it be cultivated in all six of its dimensions: knowledge of the faith, liturgical life, moral formation, prayer, belonging to community, and missionary spirit. When catechesis omits one of these elements, the Christian faith does not attain full development." The ongoing development of a living, explicit, and fruitful Christian faith in adulthood requires growth in all six dimensions. Each of them is a fundamental aspect of Christian life to draw us closer to God.

Every one of us as disciples of the Lord Jesus shares in this mission. To do our part, adult Catholics must be mature in faith and well equipped to share the Gospel, promoting it in every family circle, in every church gathering, in every place of work, and in every public forum. We must be women and men of prayer whose faith is alive and vital, grounded in a deep commitment to the person and message of Jesus. We indoctrinate ourselves in these six dimensions at the Round Table Sunday mornings from 10:30am-11:30am in the Bringer Center. Our next get together is January 7th. Please consider joining us and feed your body and your soul. Everyone is welcome. Some content came from Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us.

The Round Table members wish to extend prayers for many blessings for each and everyone of you in 2024.

submitted by *Bette Szafranski*

LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Staff

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Ron Martin, Deacon
Curt Crider, Deacon
Mimi Strasavich
Joanne Siggers
Dave Masline
Sr. Mary J. Bringer
Carol Endris (pastoral care)

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CYO

Laila Hockman lhockman@littleflower.cc

Parish Council

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Ingrid Juzang, Vice Pres.
Sister Mary Joyce, Secretary
Fr. John Lynes, Pastor
Deacon Ron Martin
Deacon Curt Crider
Debbie Ollis
Tommie Angel, Religious Education
Lyle Coleman
William Vogtner
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Curt Crider, Deacon
Joanne Siggers (Liturgical Ministers)
Sr. Mary Joyce Bringer, CSJ (Altar Servers)
Dave Masline (Music)
Betty Ebel (Altar Society)

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Men of St. Joseph

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